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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lt. Governor Kinder Releases Alzheimer's Task Force Report to Recognize Alzheimer's Awareness Month

JEFFERSON CITY – Lt. Governor Peter Kinder today recognized the month of November as Alzheimer's Awareness Month. The recognition coincides with today's release of the Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force report. The full report was delivered yesterday to Gov. Jay Nixon and members of the Missouri legislature.

"This plan is a tremendous step forward for Missourian's living with Alzheimer's disease," Lt. Governor Kinder said. "The findings, recommendations and road map this plan provides will help us better assist those who are affected by Alzheimer's today, and decades from now."

Lt. Governor Kinder is the Official Senior Advocate for the State of Missouri and serves as Chairman of the Missouri Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force.

In 2009, the Missouri General Assembly passed legislation (House Bill 272) to create the Missouri Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force. The task force was charged with developing recommendations to respond to the escalating public health emergency regarding Alzheimer's.

"I am excited about this new chapter in providing crucial treatment and support for the Alzheimer's community in Missouri," said Carroll Rodriguez of the Missouri Coalition of Alzheimer's Association Chapters. "This plan will provide critical information for the public and legislators in determining the future of Alzheimer's treatment in our state."

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The task force gathered information from public forums held in various regions of the state. Through this public input, the task force gained valuable advice from many Missourians dealing with the effects of Alzheimer's disease on them and their families.

The Missouri Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force report, released today, includes a number of short-term and long-term goals to help better care for Missourians with Alzheimer's disease. The plan will serve as a road map for increasing public education and support, while supplying legislators with a greater understanding of existing gaps in coverage and services the state provides to those suffering from Alzheimer's.

Currently, 5.3 million Americans are suffering with Alzheimer's and another person is added every 70 seconds. Caring for those with Alzheimer's, and other dementias, costs our country a total of \$172 billion, including \$122 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid. It is estimated that by 2050, 13.5 million Americans aged 65 and older will have Alzheimer's disease and the costs of care will reach over \$800 billion annually.

To find out more about Alzheimer's disease, visit: www.alz.org.

To view the Missouri Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force report, visit: www.ltgov.mo.gov.

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